

The Baptist Record

JOURNAL OF THE MISSISSIPPI BAPTIST CONVENTION

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First person...

Medical mission trip opens nurse's eyes, heart

By Martha Morris

The children are the ones you notice first.

Their large brown eyes, surrounded by beautiful brown skin, are watching.

"Who are these strangers invading our home with such a flurry of activity?" they seemed to be thinking, as supplies were unloaded May 20-26 from vans into makeshift medical clinics at seven locations in the poor, rural area surrounding Matamoros, Mexico.

The mission trip, involving 20 Mississippians from William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg, was conducted as part of the Rio Grande River Ministry in south Texas.

Poverty is evident everywhere around Matamoros, even in the faces of parents as they see needs of family members they cannot supply.

There is hope that maybe these "Good Samaritans" have brought the means to supply some of the needs — needs that make them bold as they ask for "vitaminas" for their children and for shampoo.

They wait patiently in the midst of deprivation. The air is extremely hot and, because of draught, the winds swirl black dust that covers everything. You cannot escape the dust because the wind is necessary for maintaining a safe body temperature.

There is no water. The pools dug in yards, meant to hold rain water, have long since dried up. There are huge cracks in the ground.

Is it any wonder that a large part of our treatment time involved restoration of hearing by washing out huge plugs of impacted cerumen (earwax) mixed with dust?

The bare necessities we take for granted are missing. Because water is so scarce, indoor toilets are reserved for visitors and must be flushed with water hauled in from

who-knows-where.

Sometimes even an outhouse is a luxury that all cannot afford. Neighborhood children are seen relieving themselves in front yards, with family members removing the waste to a more acceptable location.

It would be easy to feel disgust and despair over the conditions, but that is not my mission.

I am here to help. I cannot be too weary. I cannot be too hot. I must go on.

The need is so great and I have the

resources to help — not to solve all the problems, but to give hope and ease suffering in whatever small ways I can.

Physical needs are not the only needs addressed, because nurses are taught to view clients holistically (as a complete system). I see student nurses pull away from their duties to wipe away tears from their faces because they are so touched.

Did it take this cross-cultural course to make them care? I think not. It gave them a greater opportunity to experience and

demonstrate caring in a much different environment.

They continue their tasks when the conditions may say, "Why bother?" Their spirit is one of concern and commitment to meet whatever needs they can.

Spiritual needs are met through the sharing of God's Word. There is greater hope in Jesus Christ that all our medicines and treatments cannot touch.

It is frustrating to experience a communication barrier and not be able to tell someone that you love them and about the love of Jesus. I must leave the verbal witnessing to other members of the team and do all I can to show my love through my actions.

As others share, it is wonderful to see hearts made new with eternal hope and bodies made to function better through medical and nursing care.

Each day as I leave the clinic site, I wonder, "How much difference have I made in each life I touched?" Only God knows the answer to that question.

My task is to be faithful to his call, whether it is to serve in my own culture or in others.

He has given me experiences through working with people in other cultures for which I am forever grateful, and will forever be changed.

Morris is an assistant professor of nursing at Baptist-affiliated William Carey College in Hattiesburg and a member of Mississippi BNF.



Health care professionals gather at Cone Oasis Baptist Retreat near LaFeria, Texas, before heading to the Matamoros, Mexico, area for a May 20-26 medical mission trip. A total of 15 nursing students and three nursing faculty members from William Carey College (WCC) in Hattiesburg were involved in the mission trip. A WCC language professor and a Honduran pre-nursing student at the school also went along to provide Spanish interpretation for the group.

For more information on the Mississippi Baptist Nursing Fellowship (BNF), contact Mississippi Woman's Missionary Union, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Telephone: (601) 968-3800, or toll-free outside Jackson (800) 748-1651.

Haunting trend

Everyone who has read the autobiography of a Hollywood star or business tycoon knows that ghostwriters are largely responsible for the content of such books, but one religious writer says he is concerned about the growing importance of ghostwriters in the burgeoning \$3 billion Christian book market. Edward Plowman, a former media aide to evangelist Billy Graham, has just completed **Haunted Houses**, a book that examines the role of ghostwriting among Christian authors. Outstanding preachers and teachers who aren't good writers need the help of an experienced author, Plowman observed, but he contends there is another reason. "Most of the time, it all comes down to money. A book with a big minister's name will sell far more copies than one written by someone else," he said. That makes Plowman sad. "Our greatest writers, like Lewis, struggled to write their books. They didn't dream up a few of the concepts and images and then turn things over to their hired hands. Today, people are not taking the time to become engaged with the big issues in their books. We're all poorer for that," he said.

Encouraging news

"PMMFI" is an acronym Ken Marler believes every Sunday School director should memorize. "It stands for 'Please Make Me Feel Important.' We've got to let them know we appreciate what they're doing," said the Baptist Sunday School Board's growth consultant. He offers four tips:

- Involve all Sunday School workers in setting goals.
- Challenge everyone to achieve their top potential.
- Strengthen the self-image of workers.
- Spark initiative by allowing workers to be creative.

Sunday School workers must understand the scope of their authority and the standards for the job they do, as well as where they fall short and to whom they are responsible, Marler pointed out. That last point means the Sunday School director must carefully examine his/her administrative style, he warned. "Our attitude is so important. We need to make sure we are setting a good example," Marler said. Effective Sunday School leaders are servant leaders who create a sense of urgency in workers, paint a picture of how Sunday School can be done, and lift up small successes in the program, he advised.

Looking Back...

10 years ago

Louie Farmer, retired Baptist Student Union director at the University of Southern Mississippi in Hattiesburg, is inducted into the Exchange Club's Book of Golden Deeds for his 26 years of Christian service to university community.

20 years ago

The latest book by Mississippi College youth specialist Chester Swor, **Does It Really Matter?**, is scheduled for a third printing run after the first and second printings were exhausted in the 16 months since the book was released.

50 years ago

Mississippian Penrose St. Amant, associate professor of church history at the Baptist Bible Institute in New Orleans, opens the school's 28th session with an address entitled, "A Christian Faith and the Crisis of Our Culture."

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

Shipwrecked!

The ship set sail on a beautiful sunny day. The captain and the crew thought of it as a leisure cruise. Little attempt was made to train the crew for emergencies: no life boat drills, fire drills, or any kind of training. Then they hit the storm. No sooner was it over than they hit another. The crew blamed the captain, the captain blamed the crew. Soon they were estranged, barely speaking to each other.

Poor navigation led to the next disaster. On a rain-swept night the ship hit the shoals, ripping a hole in the bottom. No one knew what to do. The captain was on the bridge, high and dry; the crew was sullen and non-cooperative. The ship was taking on water and listing badly. Had anyone sent an SOS? Was there any attempt made at damage control?

The distraught wife called the pastor: "Would you please talk with my husband? He needs help. No, he will not come for counseling."

"How long has this been going on?" the pastor queried.

"We've been married five years and it started soon thereafter," she said.

"Have you done anything about it? Have you attended any marriage enrichment seminars; do you attend church as a family; are

you reading any helpful books?" the pastor asked.

"No, we just kept thinking things would get better."

"Where is your husband?"

"I don't know," the wife replied. "He slammed the door this morning, saying he was not coming back."

Shipwrecked!

"I wish you had come sooner," said the weary pastor.

So many times a couple will wait until the marriage is in shambles before they seek help. They may have thrown away the compass; they sail without directions, without family support, without a church support system, thinking "our love" will see us through.

Don't wait until a crisis precipitates disaster. There are counselors, some in your church, who can help. Many pastors are trained counselors or they can recommend a professional counselor. Daily life places a terrible strain on a marriage. Storms hit frequently and rock the marriage. Don't wait until the bottom is ripped out of your ship and it is sinking. Your marriage is worth fighting for... so begin today.

Gary Collins, in **Family Shock**, (Tyndale) list the traits of a healthy family. He deals with communication, affirmation, a sense of trust, shared responsibility,

play and humor, a shared religious core, shared leisure time, and others. Ground rules are laid down to keep families strong in the midst of earthshaking change.

Together Forever, by Anne Kristin Carroll, is written to help in overcoming the seven trouble spots in marriage.

Ed Young tells how to have a marriage that sizzles in **Romancing the Home** (Broadman & Holman). Read **Love and Anger in Marriage** (Zondervan) by David Mace. There are dozens of good books which will help. Cut the television off and read, read! Your church library will have many of these books. Marriage Enrichment Seminars are promoted by churches and by the Baptist Sunday School Board. Retreats are offered by your church and association. Start before the ship hits the rocks.

Don't be afraid to confide in a couple you know and appreciate. "You've been married for 30 years; tell me the secret of a good marriage" is not a bad way to begin. Don't let the slamming door or the empty house be your first warning. The country song, "I didn't see her leaving but I can see that she's gone," is not the recommended way to discover the need for damage control in your marriage.

Seaport ministries bring foreign missions home, ship out gospel

SEATTLE (BP) — Foreign shipping vessels often export more than the products in their hulls. Scattered around America's ports, Southern Baptist seafarer ministries witness to shipping crews, who in turn carry the gospel around the globe.

"The Lord is bringing the people of the world to our port and we're able to minister to them," said Carlos Abeyta, a port minister in Everett, Wash., north of Seattle.

Port ministries offer a variety of services, from Scripture distribution and worship opportunities to phone calls back home and visits into town. Along the way, they share Christ's love as the motivation behind their service. Many directors are home missionaries; others are pastors or volunteers who have developed a heart for this ministry.

Such work dates back to 1779, when the Naval and Military Bible Society was formed in England, said Roald Kverndal, co-founder and president of the International

Association for the Study of Maritime Mission. "We call it the Lord's original mission — entrusting the gospel to the seafarers. John, James, Andrew, Peter."

Southern Baptists trace their heritage in this field to the late 19th century when Annie Armstrong worked in Baltimore, said Joel Land, associate director of the Home Mission Board's special ministries department, which works with port ministers.

Little was being done by Southern Baptists in recent history, however, until a New Orleans minister felt the calling in 1962. John Vandercook, then pastor at Third Street Church, said he was walking along the Mississippi River one Sunday afternoon as a banana boat was being tied down.

A Dutch crew member asked Vandercook if he knew a church where he and his co-workers could attend that night. The boat had recently signed a six-month contract bringing it to New Orleans each week, and the crew started

attending Vandercook's church.

On the last Sunday night service of the boat's contract, Vandercook preached on missions. When he drove the crew members back to the boat, Vandercook recounted, one stayed in the van and asked whether he believed what he preached. "He said he couldn't understand why we'd sent missionaries all over the world and then when the world came to the United States (as seamen), we didn't even see them," Vandercook said.

Before leaving, the two men prayed and the seaman thanked God for calling Vandercook into port ministry work, even though he had not yet agreed to become involved. "Before daylight Catherine and I had committed ourselves to this ministry," said Vandercook, who 33 years later still gets teary recalling the story. "The next Sunday I resigned from the church and told them the first of September I was going into this ministry full time."

Southern Baptists currently



THE FRAGMENTS

On being practical

Proverbs is considered the book of practicality in the Bible, but actually the whole Bible is practical. There is something for the body, mind, and soul. Christianity is a practical religion; however, in many areas we have given it a heavy coat of tradition.

In the Orient they honor the dead. Much food will be placed around a tomb, then the clan or family respectfully withdraws for awhile. Presumably this is the polite thing to do and the spirits of their ancestors may partake. Then the family returns for a feast.

A brash Westerner observing this ritual wanted to know when the spirits could come to eat.

"About the same time your

ancestors will come to smell the flowers," was the reply.

People love their family members, and when one dies we seek to show our love and respect with flowers or a memorial. Increasingly, people seem to be giving fewer flowers and more memorials. The flowers fade but a small gift to a college, the Children's Village, a church building fund, etc., is surely in order.

One lady rode the practicality horse one bridge too far when she said, "When I die I want all the memorials to be used to make a payment on my charge card account at a local department store."

"Never resist a generous impulse," was the advice of a wise and happy pauper. —GH

cellular phones could eliminate one of the ministries main draws — calling home from the center, he added.

Despite the changes, Vandercook remains optimistic about the future. "It's always going to be a vital ministry because shipping's here to stay," he said. "You just have to be there where the need is."

An information manual about developing a ministry to seafarers is available from the Home Mission Board, 1-800-634-2462. Please identify product number 631-117F.

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Infanticide, forced abortion decried at women's meeting

BEIJING (BP) — Two female world leaders decried violence against women, including coercive abortion and the infanticide of girls, in speeches during the first two days of the World Conference on Women in a country notorious for both practices.

Without mentioning the host country, China, by name, First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton included forced abortion and sterilization among a list of violations of human rights in a Sept. 5 speech to delegates. In the opening session the day before, Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto of Pakistan condemned infanticide, abortion, and abandonment of baby girls, especially in Asia.

Their speeches pointed to some of the controversy which has surrounded this United Nations-sponsored conference, which is the fourth one for women. Some American pro-life and human rights advocates criticized the conference's site and called for the United States to boycott it.

The Chinese communist regime's widespread human rights violations are well-documented. The government's one-child policy for most families has resulted in forced abortions and steriliza-

tions, as well as reports of infanticide, especially of female babies.

"It is a violation of human rights when babies are denied food, or drowned, or suffocated, or their spines broken, simply because they are born girls," Clinton said, according to an excerpt of her speech in **The Washington Times**. "It is a violation of human rights when women are denied the right to plan their own families, and that includes being forced to have abortions or being sterilized against their will."

Southern Baptist observers expressed concern over Clinton's remarks.

"It would seem that the diplomats in the State Department and the political strategists in the White House decided this was as far as the first lady could go without jeopardizing the upcoming summit between the U.S. and China," said James A. Smith, the Christian Life Commission's director of government relations. "That is unfortunate. The U.S. relationship with China should be based on frankness and truth-telling, not diplomatic word games meant not to offend the Chinese government."

Nancy Schaefer, who is repre-

senting the CLC in Beijing, said, "Mrs. Clinton's talk and her walk do not match. Women fleeing forced abortion and forced sterilization have tragically not found asylum in America due to the policy change made by the Clinton administration. Every boy and girl cannot be loved and cared for equally as long as abortion is promoted as a women's right."

Several pro-life/pro-family organizations in the United States

have representatives in Beijing to lobby the voting delegates. Schaefer, a CLC trustee, is a member of First Church, Atlanta.

According to **The New York Times**, Bhutto said, "How tragic it is that the pre-Islamic practice of female infanticide still haunts a world we regard as modern and civilized. Girl children are often abandoned or aborted. Statistics show that men now increasingly outnumber women in more than

15 Asian nations."

A climate in which Asian men prefer boys has resulted in pressure to abort "innocent, perfectly formed" unborn girls, she said.

"As we gather here today, the cries of the girl child reach out to us," Bhutto said, according to **The New York Times**. "This conference needs to chart a course that can create a climate where the girl child is as welcome and valued as the boy child."

THE SECOND FRONT PAGE

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FMB embarking on mission to "last frontier" — World A

By Avery T. Willis Jr.

RICHMOND, Va. — To fulfill our vision statement to "bring all the peoples of the world to saving faith in Jesus Christ," the Foreign Mission Board recently launched what we call "On Mission with God to The Last Frontier."

It's the next stage in our continuing strategy to reach World A — those people groups with no access to the gospel. In the last 10 years we have moved from having 1% to 13.5% of our resources and missionaries committed to this cutting edge of the biblical Great Commission mandate to reach the world for Jesus Christ.

The purpose of "The Last Frontier" strategy is to give 2,466 people groups — 31.5% of the world population with no access to the gospel — a chance to hear,

understand, and respond to it. This theme is based on three things: fulfilling our shared vision statement; clearly defined statistical data; and 10 years of experience in reaching these peoples.

"The Last Frontier" plan is designed to help us focus on sharing the good news with unreached people groups — even as we maintain commitment to reach the lost on traditional "harvest" fields where missionaries work and people respond.

We're already focusing on harvest fields with several new initiatives, including extensive church growth studies in 20 missions beginning this year, revising our Missionary Learning Center training, identifying and responding to "hot spots" of opportunity, and broadening partnerships with groups and organizations that can help gather the harvest.

The effort to reach "The Last Frontier" and reap the harvest simultaneously will take more boldness than Bold Mission Thrust. We don't intend to do one by sacrificing the other; we're trying to bring balance where there's imbalance. Currently we work among only 69 of the 2,466 unreached people groups — with only 13.5% of our mission force.

Let me illustrate what a challenge it will be to correct this imbalance:

1. The number of unreached people in the world, 1.7 billion, equals more than six times the population of the United States. That total includes 193 unreached "megagroups" of more than 1 million people each. If you counted each of these people at one per second, it would take you more

than 50 years to count all of them!

2. Most of these people do not have access to a Bible, church, or a Christian.

3. Most live behind walls erected by religions or governments hostile to traditional missionary approaches.

4. It will take a mission force equal to our present number of missionaries just to have one missionary unit (single or married couple) assigned to each unreached people group.

We will make "The Last Frontier" the expanding thrust of our work. We will not neglect the harvest fields or the 3,965 people groups (an additional 24.3% of world population) that technically have access to the gospel but may never have had the chance to respond.

We will ask God for many more missionaries and resources to carry the gospel to "The Last Frontier." That means we must seriously make strategic decisions at every level of mission work in every area of the world.

Current missionaries will take part in "The Last Frontier" by (1) adopting an unreached people group for focused prayer; (2) beginning work among such groups in countries they now serve; and (3) staying open to God's leadership about the place and people he wants them to work with. God is inviting all who have accepted Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior to be on mission with him. I am asking you to join us in seeking where God is moving and how you should be involved.

Let me ask you to seriously consider if God is calling you to be on mission with him overseas, or to pray for those on mission overseas, or to increase your giving to support additional missionaries he wants to send overseas.

Willis is FMB senior vice president for overseas operations.

SBC CP gifts up for the month, up for the year

NASHVILLE (BP) — Cooperative Program gifts for August were up 8.35% from the same month a year ago, putting the totals for the year to date above the previous year by 2.55%, according to Morris H. Chapman, president and chief executive officer of the SBC Executive Committee.

CP gifts for the month of August totaled \$11,836,667 compared to August 1994 of \$10,924,478, an increase of \$912,189 or 8.35%. For the 11 months of the SBC's fiscal year,

the totals stand at \$132,859,801 compared to the same period a year ago of \$129,555,054, an increase of \$3,304,747 or 2.55%. The SBC's fiscal year is from Oct. 1 to Sept. 30.

Designated gifts for August were up 34.77% over the month a year ago: \$3,001,934 compared to \$2,227,428, a \$774,506 increase. That puts the year-to-date designated totals at \$130,330,099, compared to a year ago of \$125,679,914, an increase of \$4,650,184 or 3.70%.

Venezuela partnership posts need for volunteer health care personnel

Health care professionals are needed for two major projects in 1996 under the new Mississippi/Venezuela Partnership sponsored by the Partnership Missions Office of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board (MBCB).

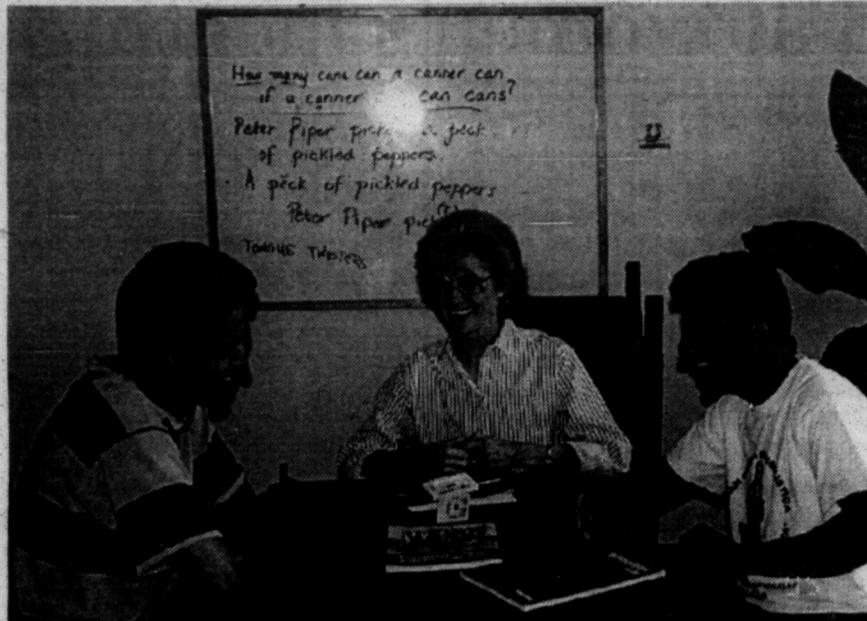
A total of six teams, with three persons on each team, will travel March 1-11, 1996, to hospitals, clinics, and universities throughout the central part of the South American country.

The teams will then lead health care conferences as requested by Venezuelan health care officials.

An additional 13



Teacher Cristina Beck rounds up the student body of Los Teknos School for Missionary Children in the Venezuela town of Los Tek. Beck is a volunteer teacher for the International Christian Service (ICS) program of the Southern Baptist Foreign Mission Board. Mississippi Baptists will join Venezuelan Baptists in a three-year partnership beginning in early 1996. (Photo by Gene Dobbs)



Hablando Ingles

Mississippian Ruth Rogers (center) teaches English as a second language to a pair of Honduran pre-med students in her role as fieldside representative for the Mississippi/Honduras Partnership under the sponsorship of the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board. Rogers and husband Pat, members of First Church, Jackson, will be working through 1996 as the partnership's fieldside representatives in the Honduran capital of Tegucigalpa.

State statistics reveal the world at our door

"The SBC has become the most cosmopolitan denomination in America," said Oscar Romo of the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board (HMB).

More than 50% of the nation identifies itself with a language and culture other than Anglo-Saxon. Like it or not, America has become the first universal nation. There are more than 500 ethnic groups speaking at least 650 languages.

The world has come to Mississippi's door, and particularly to our colleges. There are now 829 international students at Mississippi State University; 662 at the University of Mississippi; and 343 at the University of Southern Mississippi. Jackson State University has 220 enrolled; William Carey College, 33; Mississippi College, 13; and Blue Mountain College, three.

An estimated 18-20 million internationals visit the United States each year. The Home Mission and Foreign Mission boards, as well as the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board, are interested

in reaching all these people with the gospel.

Charles and Indy Whitten of Clinton, former missionaries to Spain, have been asked by the Foreign Mission Board to serve as International Outreach Representatives (IORs) in Mississippi. The Whittens are seeking to discover where internationals are located. They may be here as students, migrant workers, seamen, tourists, airline personnel, diplomats, or participants in an international conference.

Workers with cross-cultural experience, such as retired missionaries and mission volunteers like the Whittens, are needed in each of the nine districts in Mississippi to assist in this outreach ministry.

Charles Whitten said, "When the world comes to our door, we must not miss the opportunity to tell them about Jesus. It would be sad to think some international could come and go without ever having contact with American Christian family life."

Billy R. Greene, retired Hattiesburg minister, dies

Billy R. Greene, 70, of Hattiesburg, died of heart failure on Sept. 10 at Forrest General Hospital in Hattiesburg. Services were held Sept. 12 at Rawls Springs Church, Hattiesburg.

A graduate of Clarke College, Newton, Greene retired in 1989 after 40 years in the ministry. Among the churches he served were Palmer and Fellowship, both in Ripley; Mount Zion in Independence; and Rawls Springs, Hattiesburg. For 22 years he served as the pastor of Whitesand Church in Prentiss.

Survivors include his wife, Bess Ann Greene of Hattiesburg; three daughters, Margaret Greene of Starkville, Mary Magyar of Houston, Texas, and Martha Greene of Hattiesburg; two sons, Richard Alan Greene of Hattiesburg and John Mark Greene of Atlanta; four brothers, Ralph Greene of Daphne, Ala., Bobby Greene of Mobile, Ala., and James Harold Greene and M.E. (Jack) Greene, both of Seminary; three sisters, Ruth Jones, Juanita Keck, and Eloise Stone, all of Mobile, Ala.; and nine grandchildren.

Attention — draw swords — charge!

Whatever happened to Sword Drills? Only the names have been changed

By Jeannie Swafford

NASHVILLE (BP) — The name is changed and younger children can get involved, but Sword Drills — now called Bible Drills — are still a staple in Southern Baptist churches across America.

"One of the greatest benefits of the Bible Drill is that children learn discipline and confidence," said Mary Allen, Tennessee Convention staff member. Also, "They memorize Scripture and learn to find the books of the Bible. Our doctrine becomes real and biblically sound."

Last year, Mississippi Baptists recorded more than 3,000 participants in their state Bible Drills, more than 1,600 of them young children. Said **Mose Dangerfield, of the Mississippi Convention staff**: "We've been in Bible Drills as long or longer than any other state." Texas had about 2,000 children participate and Tennessee 1,400.

Sword Drills, as they were once called, began in 1927, originally involving older students. Now children are allowed in the competition, although they're given 10 seconds to find their verse, rather than the fleeting eight-second clock used for youth. There are 24 verses to learn and participants are allowed a certain amount of mistakes as they compete to advance through three levels of competition: church, associational, and state.

No matter how far the students make it in the competition, Bible Drill leader Beverly Moore of Parkway Church, Goodlettsville, Tenn., said it's worth the long

hours of practice. "Every year we have some children who draw closer to the Lord through their involvement in Bible Drill, and sometimes we have children come to the Lord for the first time."

After 15 years of leading Bible Drill at her church, one of Moore's students won at the state level this year. Jokingly, she said, "Endurance is not only a trait needed by the drillers, but also the leaders." Moore said her students come back to tell her that, years later, knowing a verse from Bible Drill helped them in school or on the job.

Kathy Shannon, who participated in Bible Drill for six years, agrees: "Being able to know the Scriptures in times of need was the greatest benefit of the Bible Drill. I will definitely encourage my own son to join the drill."

One of this year's verses, I Timothy 4:12 — Attention — Present Bibles — Start: "Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and purity."

Swafford works with *SBC Life* of the SBC Executive Committee.

SBC president seeks names for appointment

ORLANDO, Fla. (BP) — Southern Baptist Convention President Jim Henry has requested input and names of people "in the preparation of the appointment process for the 1996 Committee on Committees, Committee on Resolutions, Tellers Committee, and Credentials Committee nominations."

Henry made the request in a press release Aug. 30 with a plea for Southern Baptists: "I want your input and I will need the names of recommended persons."

Henry said he would need the information by Nov. 15.

To request necessary forms, Henry said, write to: Jim Henry, SBC President, First Baptist Church, 3701 L.B. McLeod Road, Orlando, FL 32805.

Respondents should mark "Form" on their envelopes to have their requests directed to the proper party, Henry said.

"We will be glad to fax a form to you if you include your fax number," Henry said. "The forms will be forwarded to you, and they must be complete in order for the recommendation's consideration."

Henry said a "recommendation is not necessarily a nomination, but will give us the widest possible field of nominees to pray about and consider. Continue to pray for me, our convention officers, and our beloved SBC. Let us exalt Jesus Christ together."

The 1996 SBC annual meeting will be June 11-13 in the Superdome in New Orleans.

Funeral becomes a mission event

The Sept. 8 funeral of William "Bill" Ferrell was a mission event — as was his life — from beginning to end. Bill would have liked that.

During the funeral service James Foster, who served more than a third of a century on the mission field, played the marimba.

Ben Bedford, Bill's long-time missionary friend (they served together in Argentina), spoke of Bill as a "brother" and a "servant."

Gretchen Davis made the words comforting as she sang "He's More Than Wonderful." Then Jim Futral, pastor of Jackson's Broadmoor Church, spoke of God's undeserved, unlimited, and unending love for his children.

From the congregation of the mission-minded Broadmoor Church, there were 15 or 20 missionaries with nearly a thousand combined years of missionary ser-

vice. Included in that tally would be children from Bill's own family: Opal, his beloved wife; his mother, who is near the century mark; his

William H. Ferrell, former minister, dies

William Hasel Ferrell, 70, a retired minister and missionary, died of cancer Sept. 6 at the Mississippi Baptist Medical Center in Jackson. Funeral services were held Sept. 8 at Broadmoor Church, Jackson, with burial in the Clinton Cemetery.

A Greenville native, Ferrell was a graduate of Mississippi College and Southern Seminary in Louisville, Ky. In 1952 he began 22 years service as a missionary to Argentina. In 1974 he became the pastor of Sylvarena Church in Smith County. In 1981 he became minister of missions at Broadmoor Church and retired from that post in 1990.

Survivors include his wife Opal; son, Curtis Ferrell of Clinton; daughters, Lynn Naughton of Los Alamos, N.M., and Betty Sutton of Camdenton, Mo.; mother Lessie Ferrell of Jackson; brother Lee Ferrell of Jackson; sister Catherine Russell of Southaven; and eight grandchildren.

brother Lee, and other members of this large Delta clan, most of whom have been identified with missions for their life span.

Jack and Jean Glaze, Mark and Cecile Alexander, and perhaps others had served with him on the pampas of Argentina. The Raymond Cobbs of Brazil, Charles and Indy Whitten of Spain, Harry and Frances Raley of Taiwan and a full row of other former missionaries were seated near the family.

Paul and Hannah Gay, who touched lives in Ethiopia; Marjorie Kelly, who served in Israel; and Sydney and Margaret Pitts, who have been mission leaders in Mississippi since their youth; and a host of others who had served at home and abroad stood by.

In the midst of the service it occurred to me that I needed to be writing something. No reporter's pad nor scrap paper for me... I just took an offering envelope from the pew. Later I noticed it was the State Mission Offering envelope, entirely fitting in this mission event. Bill would have been pleased. — GH

RTVC radio programs reaching an estimated 410 million people

FORT WORTH (BP) — Total estimated worldwide audience per week for radio programs produced by the Radio and Television Commission during August was 410 million.

Estimated audience for RTVC-produced radio programs in July was 388 million.

The figures are based on data collected by the RTVC radio distribution department and radio rating services.

"Radio, obviously, plays a vital role in our media ministry," said Jack Johnson, RTVC president. "I think that role will increase dramatically into the next century. It provides us the opportunity of reaching the entire world with the gospel of Jesus Christ."

Longest-running of the five weekly programs produced by the RTVC is "The Baptist Hour," which airs 406 times each week

on 386 stations. It airs in 117 different markets, 20 of the top 50 markets and has an estimated worldwide audience of 49 million. **Frank Pollard**, pastor of First Church, Jackson, is the preacher for "The Baptist Hour."

"Powerline," with an estimated audience of 113 million, is the most listened-to of the five programs. The "Powerline" format is a mix of adult contemporary music from the 1970s, '80s and '90s along with inspirational vignettes. It airs 691 times each week on 624 stations. The program is in 206 different markets and in 38 of the top 50 markets.

"Country Crossroads" is aired by 886 stations a total of 945 times each week. The program, which features the latest in country music, interviews with recording artists and inspirational thoughts, has an estimated worldwide audience of 86 million. It is

aired in 209 different markets and 35 of the top 50 markets.

"MasterControl," which uses a magazine format and features interviews with experts on health, finances, self-help, entertainment, and travel, is carried by 519 stations and airs 569 times each week. The program has an estimated worldwide audience of 85 million, airing in 166 different markets and 39 of the top 50 markets.

"On Track," featuring contemporary Christian music, is broadcast on 431 stations and airs 468 times per week. The program airs in 140 different markets, 28 of the top 50 markets and has an estimated worldwide audience of 77 million.

All RTVC-produced radio programs are provided to stations as a public service and are carried without charge to the RTVC.

Texas church launches Web site to reach the lost, "net surfers"

DALLAS (BP) — Some Baptist churches and institutions are venturing into cyberspace to reach nerds, geeks, seekers, and surfers — not to mention just plain folks with computer modems.

"People on-line seem to fit the mold of the typical searcher who may believe some of Christianity, some of the psycho-theory spirituality, some New Age, some ancient wisdom, and so forth," said Jeryl Hoover, pastor of Tarrytown Church, Austin, Texas. "The good thing is that more and more people are wanting to discuss religion intelligently, like those Paul met on Mars Hill."

"The Net is a God-given opportunity for those of us who want to engage those folks," he said. Tarrytown Church went on-line about five months ago, launching a home page on the Internet's World Wide Web. About 1,000 visitors have "signed" the church's electronic guest register.

The Internet is a global network of more than 40,000 interconnected computer networks in government agencies, universities, and varied organizations. The World Wide Web system organizes the mishmash of Internet data. It is a shortcut that allows users to explore resources from multiple entry points by pointing and clicking a mouse on a key word or picture on a Web home page.

Tarrytown's home page is a colorful, stylized map of the church campus. Browsers can point and click on such areas as "youth jam," "family park," or "kid zone," as well as an events calendar.

"We are definitely interested in reaching the 'outsider' by offering a non-threatening way

of presenting the message," Hoover said.

The Net can be a haven for outsiders. Commercial on-line services such as CompuServe — carrier for SBCNet, a Baptist Sunday School Board-coordinated network with about 5,600 users — are closely administered to keep them relatively "family friendly."

By contrast, content on the Internet currently is unregulated, although proposals for cleaning up cyberspace are pending in Congress. The Net's "chat rooms" can be profane and some web sites contain pornographic images.

The same anonymity that cyberspace offers to participants in sexually explicit chat rooms also is afforded to spiritual seekers, Hoover noted. Tarrytown plans to start an "apologetics forum" where Christian beliefs can be defended and explained to a non-Christian audience.

"I believe that the primary tool of evangelism in this decade is an articulate apologetic that is honest to compare Christianity to the other alternatives," Hoover said.

Dalai Lama's visit to Baptist school draws fire

WINGATE, N.C. (BP) — In his first stop on a 10-day tour of five U.S. cities, the exiled leader of the country of Tibet began his trek in the heart of the Carolinas, speaking at Wingate University Sept. 5. The Dalai Lama, who is revered as God-king by more than 6 million Tibetan Buddhists, was accompanied to Wingate, a university affiliated with the North Carolina Convention, by U.S. Senator Jesse Helms.

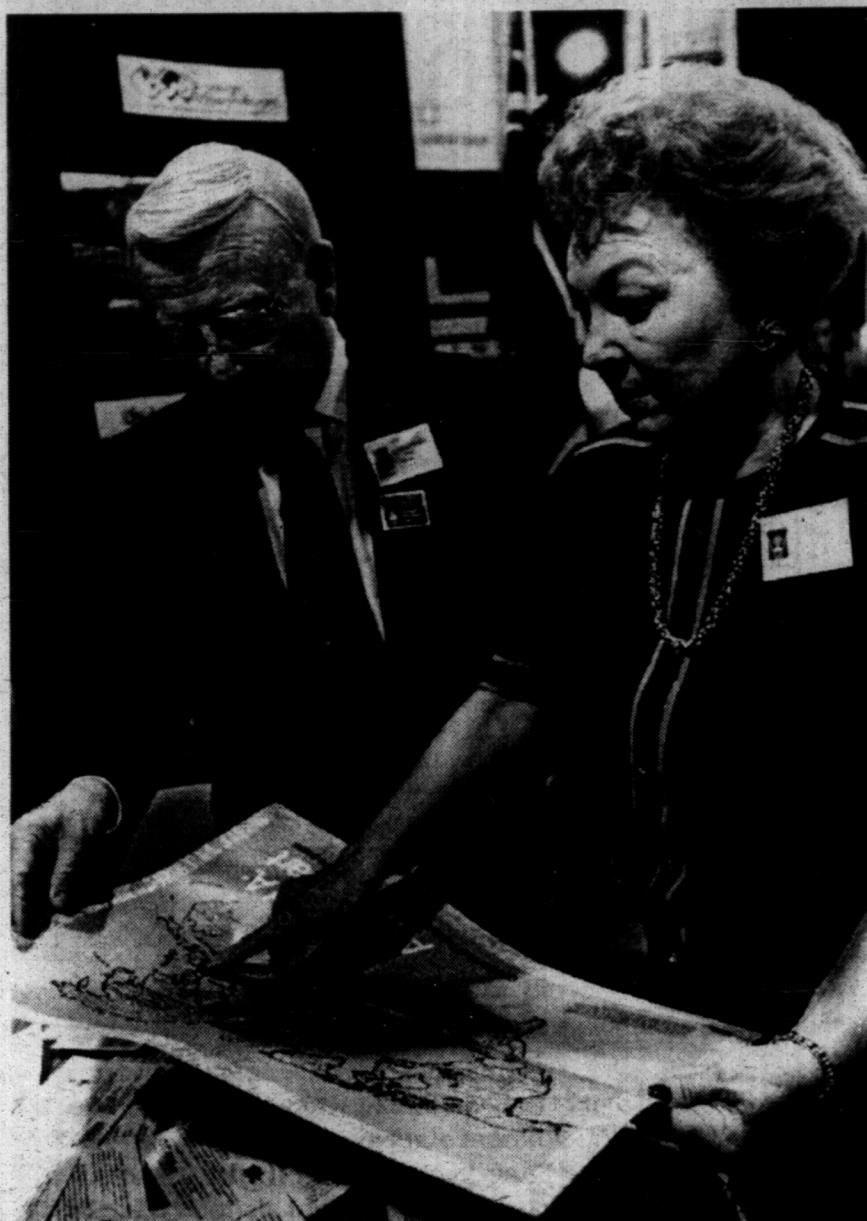
The 60-year-old Dalai Lama, who was granted temporal powers over Tibet at age 16, is visiting

the United States to gain support for the Tibetan people and their right to political self-determination. The country has been occupied by the People's Republic of China since 1959 when communist troops moved into the Tibetan capital, Lhasa, to quash a pro-independence movement there.

The recipient of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1989, the Dalai Lama told the Wingate, N.C., audience the Tibetan issue has "truth" on its side, yet he warned "time is running out." For nearly 40 years, he said, he has been

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BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 5



VIETNAM PRAYER PILGRIMAGE — Lewis Myers, Foreign Mission Board vice president for World A strategies, and Mary Humphries, third-term president of the Texas Baptist Woman's Missionary Union, discuss plans for a 16-day prayer pilgrimage to Vietnam scheduled March 29-April 14. Humphries and her husband Jim, both former FMB missionaries to Vietnam, will lead a 20-member team to strategic sites in Vietnam to pray for the Vietnamese people. Myers is also a former FMB missionary to Vietnam. (FMB photo by Van Payne)

Vietnam prayer pilgrimage will target 5 strategic sites

RICHMOND, Va. — A team of Southern Baptists will focus prayer on the advance of the gospel in Vietnam during a Vietnam Prayer Pilgrimage set for March 29-April 14, 1996.

Jim and Mary Humphries, former Southern Baptist missionaries to Vietnam, will lead a 20-member team to sites of strategic significance for spreading the gospel in Vietnam. The team will join in prayer at those places for the people of Vietnam and the witness of Vietnamese Baptists.

The 16-day pilgrimage will begin in Hanoi and includes stops in Danang, Hue, Dalat, and Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon). The \$2,515 cost includes round-trip airfare from Richmond, Va., and expenses in Vietnam. The pilgrimage is jointly sponsored by the World A Strategies and International Prayer Strategy offices of the Foreign Mission Board.

For more information, contact Jim and Mary Humphries at 109 Oakridge, San Marcos, TX 78666; telephone (512) 392-6169.

Summer exercises

Howell Todd (right), president of Mississippi College, is pictured with Bob Agee, president of Oklahoma Baptist University, at MC's 1995 summer commencement, held Aug. 11 in the A.E. Wood Coliseum on campus. Agee delivered the commencement address. MC awarded 197 degrees during the ceremonies.



pleased with the religious leader's visit to Wingate. "My concern," he said, "is that we are not just having a religious leader as such, but a man who claims the incarnation of deity and who as well claims reincarnation of previous Dalai Lamas."

Prior to the event, Roberts had written both Jerry McGee, president of Wingate University, and Helms, asking they disinvite the Dalai Lama, suggesting they host the Dalai Lama implied that the university was promoting both his political ideology and his faith.



Health-related news for ministers, families...



Good diet, exercise vital to ministry

GLORIETA, N.M. — (BP) If the cliche "you are what you eat" is true, a lot of Baptist ministers may be in trouble.

With church suppers of fried chicken and home-baked pies and fast-food lunches common among those constantly on the go, it's not surprising ministers and church workers are one of the groups most at risk for high blood pressure, heart attacks, and depression, a Baptist Sunday School Board (BSSB) consultant said.

John Garner, pastor/staff growth consultant and projects coordinator at the BSSB, led an Aug. 22 seminar on nutrition during Small Sunday School Conference at Glorieta (N.M.) Conference Center.

"In too many of our churches, people are dying younger of heart attacks, strokes, and cancer," Garner said. "Others are sleepy and fatigued all the time or depressed. It's affecting their interpersonal relationships, and among pastors and church workers, it's affecting their ministry."

"It's fabulous, unbelievable, what God has done in creating our physical bodies," Garner said. "We have a responsibility to take care of them. ... Our objective ought to be to serve God as well

as we can as long as we can."

Garner shared eight common complaints which prevent people from starting a healthy eating and exercise program and he responded to each:

1) "I tried it once, but it didn't work for me." (It's never too late to try again.)

2) "It's too hard." (It's never going to get any easier.)

3) "It takes too much time." (It doesn't have to. A two-mile walk in 30 minutes three times a week can make a significant impact on your health. Look for simple ways to get a little extra exercise, such as parking further away from the door at the grocery store or taking the stairs instead of the elevator.)

4) "I can't afford it." (It could cost as little as a good pair of walking shoes.)

5) "I feel self-conscious." (Is that worse than feeling bad or becoming ill?)

6) "I lack support from family and friends." (Don't let others dictate your actions when your physical health is at stake.)

7) "I'm too tired to exercise." (Exercise will energize you.)

8) "I'm too old to start." (You're never too old to begin reaping the benefits of healthy eating and exercise.)

Healthy eating, Garner said, can involve steps as simple as eating more fruits, vegetables, cereals, and other high-fiber foods, and consuming fewer foods with a high content of fat, sugar, and salt.

He also offered the following suggestions for a healthy diet:

— Wait a while before you go back for seconds. Give your stomach a chance to "record" what you've already eaten.

— Eat a healthy breakfast. This gets your metabolism going and gets your day off on the right foot.

— Stretch the amount of meat you eat. Eat more poultry and fish.

— Avoid nutritional "cures" or "dramatics." They won't work.

— Drink six to eight glasses of water a day.

— Go for a walk.

— Figure out your fat gram consumption.

— Forget dieting to lose weight quickly.

— Don't eat too close to bed-time.

— Eat slowly.

— Eat whatever you want, but eat wisely. The key is balance. As Scripture tells us, do everything in moderation.

Garner also encouraged conference-goers to learn all they can

about nutrition, exercise, and healthy eating. He suggested as a resource the workbook, *Nutrition for God's Temple*, by Richard Couey, professor of nutrition and fitness at Baylor University in Waco, Texas.

The book, published by the

BSSB's LifeWay Press, is available at Baptist Book Stores and can also be ordered direct from the BSSB customer service center at 1-800-458-2772.

Small Sunday School Conference is sponsored by the BSSB's Bible teaching-reaching division.

Study shows divorce ups risk for earlier death

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NIHR)

— Marriage break-up can shave years off an expected life span, according to a study covering 70 years which examined factors influencing longevity.

Either divorce of one's parents or the break-up of one's own marriage reduced the average life span of a group of 1,500 gifted children studied throughout their lifetimes. The study's findings were reported in the February 1995 issue of *American Psychologist*, one of the flagship journals of the American Psychological Association.

"Parental divorce was the key early social predictor of premature mortality," the researchers stated. "Inconsistently married people (those who married, divorced, and may or may not have later remarried) were at higher risk for premature mortality than the steadily married people (those who never divorced)."

The researchers at the University of California at Riverside investigated the major factors influencing length of life for children recruited for a study in 1921.

California psychologist Lewis Terman recruited 1,528 children with IQs of at least 135 to study their psychological and social development and eventual life outcomes. The children were followed into adulthood by Terman and other researchers and were reinterviewed in 1972.

viewed at 5- to 10-year intervals.

Men and women who at some time went through a divorce had a 40% greater risk of premature death than those who were steadily married, even if they remarried. "There seems to be a detrimental effect of previous divorce that is not eliminated when the individuals remarry," the researchers noted.

Men who remained divorced or separated suffered from a 120% increase in the risk of earlier death compared to the steadily married. Among women, the risk jumped 80%.

The researchers also found that those who had experienced parental divorce as children or adolescents were more likely to experience later marital breakup themselves. Unconscious men whose parents divorced were found to die seven years earlier than conscientious men from stable families.

Taken individually, the various psychological factors are "comparable to common biological risk factors such as systolic blood pressure and serum cholesterol and to common behavioral risks such as exercise and diet."

The researchers concluded "if such patterns of findings were found concerning toxic associations with insecticides, electromagnetic fields, or diets, ... it is likely that a public health emergency would be perceived."

has been telling us for years: mainly, that tending to the spiritual dimension of marriage is what unites couples in unbreakable bonds," said the Parrots.

Married life will always have its ups and downs. But the Parrots believe that the mastery of certain skills will greatly reduce the risk of divorce and ensure wedded bliss.

What Christians have known all along...

Church-goers have lower blood pressure

WASHINGTON, D.C. (NIHR)

— With nearly 25 million Americans taking high blood pressure medicine costing up to \$7 billion a year, health care researchers are suggesting a low-cost treatment shown to help bring down blood pressure — going to church.

"Hypertension is a common and serious problem which appears mitigated by religion," noted medical doctors Jeff Levin and Harold Vanderpool in reviewing 20 studies which looked at the effect of religious commitment on hypertension. But who is most likely to return to church?

Closeness to one's parents in childhood is the major factor determining whether young adults who have lost their religious roots will sometime return, found a recent study.

Sociologists John Wilson and Darren Sherkat used data from a nationwide survey of over 1,500 American high school seniors in 1965 who were resurveyed at

ages 25 and 35.

"A warm and close relation to parents has lasting impact," stated the sociologists. "Children who were close to their parents during high school not only are less likely to rebel, but more likely to return if they do so."

Maintaining regular contact with parents at the time of the third interview, when those studied were 35, also was associated with returning to church.

Surprisingly, keeping active in church and holding strong beliefs about the Bible in one's teenage years were not significant factors in differentiating those who returned from those who remained church dropouts as adults.

"Lack of closeness and contact have created a religious gap between parents and children," according to the researchers, "rather than religious differences creating a distant relationship."

However, strong beliefs in the Bible and, to a lesser extent,

frequent church participation did tend to keep youths committed to church in the first place.

The study also confirmed previous findings that being married and having children were both important social factors in bringing unaffiliated adults back to church, especially men, who are more likely than women to drop out in the first place. Their returning to church appeared prompted, at least in part, by the desire to provide for their children religious education and training.

These findings underscore the claims of other social scientists that marriage and parenthood bring responsibility, meaning, and purpose to parents' lives.

Returning to church may be part of an effort to make sense of these newfound realities as well as to ground them on a more solid foundation, providing an inner sense that can even affect clinical outcomes such as one's blood pressure.

Seven little "insurance policies" for healthy marriages

(ZPS) — Betty Grable's legs and the successful launch of a communications satellite have more in common than one might think on the surface. They were both insured by Lloyd's of London, a group of 300 insurance underwriters.

Such a group of informed risk-takers would, however, have serious misgivings about insuring the success or longevity of today's marriages.

In the decade of the 1930s, only one out of seven marriages ended in divorce, but 30 years later, the risk of divorce had increased to one out of four. Today roughly half of the 2.4 million couples in the U.S., who promise to love "til death do us part," will last only until divorce parts them.

Dr. Les Parrott III (a psychologist) and his wife Dr. Leslie Parrott (a marriage and family therapist) propose that, because of research done on the ingredients of a happy marriage, a couple today can in effect insure their marriage against divorce much like they insure their homes against fire.

"In short, the things that forecast a healthy marriage form the basis of seven questions we pose [to couples]," said the Parrots in their new book, *Saving Your Marriage Before It Starts*. "Taking the time to understand these issues is like investing in an insurance policy against divorce."

Have you faced the myths of marriage honestly?

One who has a realistic view of marriage would not say "my

spouse will make me whole," or "everything bad in my life will disappear now that I'm married."

Can you identify your love style?

A balanced love has three components that are equally matched: passion, intimacy, and commitment.

Have you developed the habit of happiness?

Couples need to develop the right attitude in spite of circumstances. "Happiness in marriage has nothing to do with luck and everything to do with will," said the Parrots.

Can you say what you mean and understand what you hear?

Whether a marriage succeeds or fails depends on how well spouses send and receive messages.

Have you ever bridged the gender gap?

Humorist Dave Barry succinctly illustrated the difference between men and women when he said, "What women want is to be loved, to be listened to, to be desired, to be respected, to be needed, to be trusted, and sometimes, just to be held; what men want are tickets for the World Series."

Do you know how to fight a good fight?

Knowing how to handle the inevitable conflicts of married life will go a long way to ensure a happy union.

Are you and your partner soul mates?

Recently, scientific research has backed up what common sense

Letters to the editor

Threat to families

Editor:

This is written to awaken Christians to recognize a terrible threat to our families.

From Aug. 30 to Sept. 15, delegates from 170 countries will attend the United Nations World Conference on Women in Beijing, China. It will represent the most radical, atheistic, and anti-family crusade in the history of the world.

You have not heard much about it from the secular media, and I am astounded that women do not even know such a conference is being held, under the guise of helping them, when in reality it is an enormous threat to our spiritual and cultural heritage, mainly the family.

Look who is heading the conference — the United Nations, with Bella Abzug, Gloria Steinam, Jane Fonda, and Betty Friedan serving as our official spokespersons on morals and the family.

Their draft document is called "Gender — The Deconstruction of Women." This is the basis for the

Beijing Conference. I have a copy of this, documented carefully for the benefit of the skeptical.

They hope to eliminate such terms as motherhood and fatherhood, and thereby dissolve the traditional roles of mother and father, replacing them with gender neutral terms such as parent, spouse, child, sibling.

It all sounds so innocent, but is actually designed to destroy marriage. The United States is a super power nation, and these women coming from 170 nations will be led to believe that we, as a nation, endorse these feminist views. No way! God blesses motherhood, fatherhood, childhood, and family, truth, purity, and faith in a nation who still declares, loud and clear: In God We Trust!

The draft document to be promoted in Beijing is utterly disdainful of the King of kings and Lord of lords. He is cast aside as irrelevant. There will be "population control" measures introduced which certainly will be nothing new in China, where the law exists: "One child per family."

Make no mistake about it, most of what Christianity stands for will be challenged during this atheistic conference. That is the agenda. To the average person the gender feminists' agenda appears pure nonsense. How could anyone believe that society could elimi-

nate motherhood, and do away with the traditional Christian family, but I assure you the gender feminists have been extremely skillful in portraying images of men as enemies of women. They have been able to win positions within government bureaucracies where they use their power to forward their perspectives.

What can we do? First, pray! Second, write your senators, editors, etc.

Let your voice be heard!

Mrs. J.R. Gilfoy
Jackson

Grateful for support

Editor:

Please allow me to express my deepest appreciation for all the calls, cards, letters, and prayers that came to us from all across Mississippi to Midway Church, Newton, when we lost one of our children in a tragic drowning at Rapids on the Reservoir on Aug. 12. Your responses revealed that we were not alone in our pain and grief. We are truly grateful for every expression of concern.

Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ is indeed in the business of healing broken hearts, including hearts broken by grief. He continues to heal the hearts of our church and community. Your prayers will continue to be appreciated in the weeks and months ahead. Isaiah 26:3.

Wayne Miley, pastor
Newton

Congrats in order

Editor:

I would like to congratulate the Chaplains Commission for tightening the doctrinal requirements for new chaplains. The new requirements, as I understand them, will add specific questions about the authority and inspiration

of the Bible. These additional questions, plus those currently on the form, will insure that all of our new chaplains will be people who believe in the inerrancy of the Bible, as well as other doctrines clearly taught in the Bible, which Baptists have long believed. Those who do not believe in the inerrancy of the Bible will be weeded out, as indeed they should be.

Kevin Waller
Bude

Tribute from the heart

Editor:

Perhaps only the Lord will ever really know the number of hours he spent praying for me. And probably no one will ever really know the number of lives that have been changed because of his ministry. I know that he had an undying passion for the truth of God's Word, and that he loved and prayed consistently for his family, and that of all those lives that have been touched significantly by his life, mine was one.

My grandfather, A.E. Mason, began preaching in 1930 when he was just 18 years old. His first public speaking engagement was sharing his testimony from the top of a ladder to a group of homeless people in Chicago. He and my grandmother spent 59 years ministering side by side, not only preaching that testimony, but living out the gospel that he believed so strongly.

My grandparents truly exemplified true Christianity. Their marriage, their ministry, and their lives truly portray the heart of God and I'm thankful for their going before me, lighting the way, and making it clearer for me which path I want to take.

My grandfather died in July, and even though I know with all certainty that he's rejoicing in the presence of the Lord right now, I

will miss him. But as if he has passed a baton to the next generation, I know it's my turn to make a difference in the lives of those around me.

All of us have someone who's watching our lives to see if what we preach and proclaim really makes a difference in our lives. Seeing God's faithfulness in my grandparents' lives sure makes it easier for me to trust in him. Seeing their faithfulness has challenged me to be more faithful to my Lord. O may all who come behind us find us faithful.

Kathy Evans
Minister to youth and children
First Church, Woodbury, Ga.

Enrollment at SBTS down 13%

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (ABP) — Fall enrollment at Southern Seminary dropped by the largest percentage in recent history but not nearly as much as some had predicted.

Total on-campus enrollment this fall is 1,241, according to preliminary data provided by the seminary's public relations office. That is a drop of 197 students, or 13.4%, over last fall.

The fall total includes 286 new students, a drop of about 100.

Observers both inside and outside the seminary community had predicted a significant drop in enrollment this fall, due to controversies that erupted last spring.

The seminary has been undergoing a significant shift toward a more conservative direction that started about 1990 and has been accelerated since the election of Albert Mohler as president in 1993.

Based on fall on-campus enrollment figures, Southern has lost 40.2% of its student body since 1990, a pivotal year on two fronts.

Over the last decade, Southern's on-campus enrollment has declined 43.8%, from 2,209 to 1,241.

Bethlehem, Jones Co., marks 125

Bethlehem Church, Laurel, will celebrate its 125th anniversary with a homecoming weekend beginning Oct. 7.

On Saturday, Oct. 7, a fellowship meal will be held at the church. Sunday's celebration will include worship services and dinner on the grounds.

The church is currently completing a 24,000-square foot building which will include educational and office space, as well as a fellowship hall and family life center.

For more information, call the church at (601) 428-4462. Valton Douglas is pastor.

REFORMATION Heritage LECTURES

The Protestant Reformation was a tremendous movement of spiritual and theological renewal which called the church back to its biblical and evangelical roots. At Beeson, we own afresh the principles for which our forefathers in the faith struggled, lived, and died: sola Scriptura, sola gratia, sola fide. These precepts are not antiquated dogma, but relevant, foundational principles which daily summon us to repentance and renewal. From their truth, we learn to be the faithful shapers of the future under the Lordship of Jesus Christ.



Dr. David C. Steinmetz

This year's lectures will be delivered by Dr. David C. Steinmetz, the Amos Ragan Kearns Professor of the History of Christianity, Duke University, **October 31 - November 2, 1995**, in the Divinity School Chapel, Samford University, Birmingham, Alabama. The lecture series will be the finale of the dedication festivities for Beeson's new Chapel.

For information on the lectures or Beeson Divinity School, please call Dean Timothy George at 1-800-888-8266.

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Just for the Record



Highland Church, Crystal Springs, brought snow in July for 127 children attending Vacation Bible School. The snow was a part of the lesson being taught by Joan Martin, on how God creates all types of weather.



Rankin

Jerry A. Rankin, president of the Foreign Mission Board, will present the annual William Carey Lectures at 11 a.m. on Oct. 2 and 3 on the school's Hat-

tiesburg campus. The Mississippi native and former missionary to Southeast Asia will also be the featured speaker at the Fall Convocation in Smith Auditorium, Thomas Fine Arts Center, at 10 a.m. on Oct. 2.

Central Baptist Association, Albuquerque, N.M., is seeking resumes to fill the position of



First Church, Hazlehurst, held a note burning ceremony following the morning worship service on Aug. 13 to celebrate the retirement of its debt. Lee Walker (from left), Edward Patten, and Josie Reves participated. Renovation was completed in 1992 and the debt was retired Aug. 7.

church development coordinator to serve under the director of missions. Resumes may be sent to the Search Committee Chairman, John R. Torrison, P.O. Box 66, Tijeras, NM 87059. For further information, call the committee chairman at (505) 281-3342 or (505) 293-6640. Resumes must be received by Oct. 15.



Sixteen girls from **Calvary Church, Waynesboro**, recently attended GA camp at Camp Garaywa. They are (from left): bottom row, Amy Cooley, Kati Odom, Shannon Davis, Savannah Bonner, Maggie Chancey, Melissa Overstreet, Sommer Thornton; top row, Caiti Moriarty, Jenci Bowen, Dana West, Shea Clanton, Lindsay Bonner, Benden Boyd, Racheal Cooley, Kendall Cooper, and Penni Bowen.

Revival Dates

Calhoun, Hot Coffee: Sept. 17-22; Sunday, 11 a.m. service followed by dinner on the grounds and an afternoon service; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; Joe Royalty, Petal, evangelist; Hubert Greer, Brookhaven, music; Ronald Purser, pastor.

Puckett (Rankin): Sept. 17-20; regular Sunday services; 7:30 p.m. weeknights; Ricky Kennedy, McComb, evangelist; Brad and Tammy Jones, Meridian, music; Barry Ward, pastor.

Rocky Point, Carthage: Sept. 25-27; services, 7 p.m.; W. Levon Moore, Kosciusko, interim pastor, evangelist; Ed Brashier, Carthage, music.

Green's Creek (Lebanon): Sept. 17-20; Sunday, 10 a.m. and 7 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Bill Sturm, Tulsa, Okla., evangelist; Rick Hamm, Green's Creek Church,

music; Mike Routon, pastor.

Highland, Crystal Springs: Sept. 17-22; Sunday, 11 a.m.; 7 p.m. nightly; John and Lisa McDaniel, Memphis, evangelist and music; Bill Hudson, pastor.

North Columbia, Columbia: Sept. 24-29; Sunday, 8:30 and 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; Mon.-Fri., 7 p.m.; James E. Messer Sr., Theodore, Ala., evangelist; Mel Evans, Pearl, music; Philip Duncan, pastor.

Bethel, Drew: Sept. 24-27; Sunday, 11 a.m. and 5:30 p.m.; Mon.-Wed., 7 p.m.; Robert Haney, evangelist; Maynard Hill, music; Larry Chouccoli, pastor.

Dumas, Tippah: Sept. 17-21; Sunday, 11 a.m.; Mon.-Thurs., 7 p.m. nightly; Bob Smith, Pilot Point, Texas, evangelist; Shane Price, Booneville, music; Mike Smith, pastor.



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Mission Activities

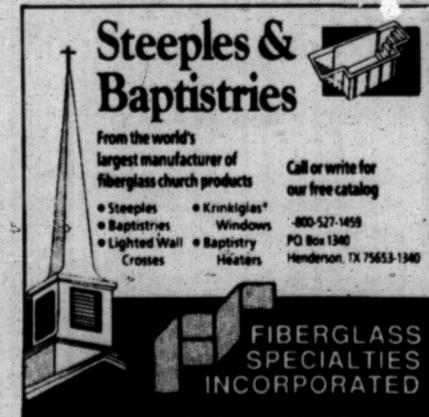
Two faculty members and 16 pre-nursing and nursing students of William Carey College participated in a mission trip to Northern Mexico during the week of May 20-26. (See related story on page 1.) The faculty members leading the trip were Martha Morris (nursing faculty) and Tom Lott (language faculty). This is the second year that WCC faculty and students have ministered in Mexico. The nursing students participating in the trip were as follows: Cheri Crowley, Kacie Hickman, Stacy Lott, William Magee, Connie McRae, Trancy Peckinpaugh Regan, Robert Regan, Belinda Rouse, Theresa Smith, Resa Spann, Connie Hutchinson, Kelly Spell, Pam Terry, Sheri Walters, Patsy Welch, and Ana McAtee.

Lowell Ingram, of Strong Hope, Wesson, and Daryl Oster and Tommy Douglas, of Zion Hill Church, Copiah Association, went on a mission trip to Alaska, May 24-June 5. Work completed included interior construction (doors, cabinets, and library) for University Baptist Church in Fairbanks. Upon completion of the work assigned to this team they then proceeded to Fort Yukon located eight miles north of the Arctic Circle. This village's population of approximately 700 is primarily composed of Native American Indians of the Athabascan tribe. The work completed included major cleanup of the property and grounds, repair

of the roofs of the sanctuary and pastor's home, and painting the exterior of both.

Members of a mission group sponsored by Parks Church, Glendora, and Calvary Church, Parchman, have returned from the Rio Grande Valley. They conducted medical-dental clinics in Mexico, Vacation Bible Schools among Hispanics in both Texas and Mexico, and an evangelistic crusade in Mexico. In addition, the construction team worked on a new mission in San Juan, Texas. The group treated over 500 patients, saw 19 persons become new Christians, and taught 97 children in three Vacation Bible Schools. Participants included Joe Young, pastor of Parks and Calvary churches, leader and coordinator; Gayden Harrell, pastor of Roundaway Church, Doddsville; Richard Bushart, Memphis; Cora Lee Morris, Jimmy Morris and his wife; Jennifer and Michael Morris, Glendora; Rick Milan and his

wife, Marty Milan, and Mandy Mortag, Cleveland; Megan Smith, Royanne Lewis, Kevin Holland, and Cody Dossett, Drew; Angela Harmon, Tutwiler; Vicki Clark and Tiffany Clark, Sumner; Jeff Hoskinson, Desiree Farmer, Lenora Holloway, and Cindy Steed, Doddsville; Earl Hodges Jr. and his wife; Jim Harmon, Jamie Winters, Frances Harmon, and April Harmon, Parchman; and Joanne Young, Jody Young, Jamie Mitchell, Joey and Joel Young, Charleston.



Christian Heritage Week Conference

Saturday, September 23, 8:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.
Sunday, September 24, 4 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Morrison Heights Baptist Church
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Christian Heritage Ministries
Springfield, VA

Matt Friedman
Seminary instructor, columnist,
& radio talk show host
Jackson, MS

Marvin Sanders
American Family Association
Tupelo, MS

Chimneyville Smokehouse
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State Senator, Hinds County
Terry, MS

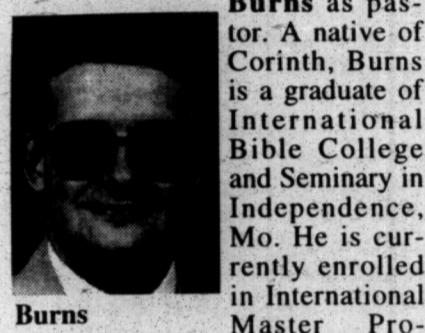
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Concerned Women for America
Mississippi Family Council
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Staff Changes

East Booneville, Booneville, has called **Rickey Kelly** to serve as associate pastor/minister of worship and youth effective Sept. 20. Kelly, a graduate of Blue Mountain College, previously served at Mary's Chapel, Ripley, Tenn. for five years. Jim Holcomb is pastor.



Burns is a graduate of International Bible College and Seminary in Independence, Mo. He is currently enrolled in International Master Program. His previous place of service was New Harmony Church, Blue Springs.

Dwayne Sims has resigned **Woodville Heights Church**,



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Jackson, as minister of music effective Aug. 6. He has accepted the position of associate pastor of education and administration at First Church, Crestview, Fla.

Pelahatchie Church, Pelahatchie, recently called **Scott Rogers** as minister of education and youth. Rogers goes to Pelahatchie from First Church, Pontotoc, where he served for two years. Mike Glenn is pastor.

Fannin First Church, Brandon, has called **Harry Williams** of Brandon as its youth minister, effective Sept. 1. He previously served as youth minister at Meadow Grove, Brandon. Keith Stevens is Fannin First Church pastor.

Kenneth Kelly has resigned as pastor of **Union Church**, Panola County. He is available to fill the pulpit as pastor or interim and can be contacted at Rt. 7, Tupelo, MS 38801 or (601) 844-3985.

Pineview Church, Clinton, has called **Luther Stanford** as part-time minister of students effective Aug. 27. He is a native of Panama City, Fla. His wife Trinity is secretary at the church. Both are students at Mississippi College. Neel Grantham is pastor.

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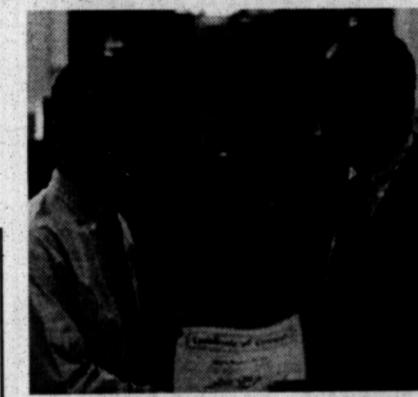
BAPTIST RECORD PAGE 9

Names in the News

Bobby Tagert was ordained to the gospel ministry on May 28 at Branch Church, Scott County, at the request of Rehobeth Church, Rankin County. Participating in the service were Tommy Massey, Dwight Irby, David and Dalton Tagert, T.W. Henderson, Odus Jackson, Ernest Lee Coward, and James E. Watts, pastor of Branch Church, who gave the charge to the candidate and the church. A reception was held following the service honoring Tagert, his wife Rissa, and daughter DeAnna.



Richie Allen (right) was ordained to the gospel ministry on Aug. 13 by Michael Memorial Church, Gulfport, where Craig Conner (left) is pastor. Allen is now pastor at First Church Lyman, Gulfport.



Bob Robinson (left) was licensed to the gospel ministry Aug. 16 by Raymond Church, Raymond. Pictured with Tommy Jarrett, pastor, Robinson serves as minister of youth at Macedonia Church, Brookhaven.

Bill Bangham, award-winning Home Mission Board photojournalist and magazine designer, will join the Foreign Mission Board's communications office Sept. 5 to direct its new presentation department. Bangham, 51, is one of four new directors named in a reorganization announced by Louis Moore, FMB associate vice president for communications.

Mississippi College recently hired **Jim Montgomery** as women's tennis coach and **Marian Coleman** as volleyball coach. Montgomery holds a doctorate in education and a master's degree from George Peabody College of Vanderbilt University. He has served as a professional tennis trainer since 1993. Coleman, who has served as acquisitions assistant at the Mississippi College Library since 1994, holds a bachelor's degree in Bible and religion from King College, where she served as assistant volleyball coach from 1991-94.

Ronald P. Baker, agricultural missionary to Indonesia, will be the featured speaker at the Agri-missions meeting at First Church, Jackson, at 3 p.m. on Oct. 30. Agricultural projects to help meet the physical and spiritual needs of the people of Honduras and Venezuela will be discussed.

Marvin E. Taylor, 88, was named Hamilton's outstanding citizen for 1995, and was honored at an appreciation day by the community on Aug. 19. The 70-year Hamilton resident is a member and deacon at Center Hill Church. Taylor, a retired carpenter, is an



Thomas Ellington (left) was presented the Certificate of License to preach by **Thomas McCormick** (right) pastor of Oral Church, Sumrall. Ellington preached his first sermon on June 25 at Oral Church. Son of Eric and Charlene Ingram of Laurel, Ellington currently attends William Carey College.

accomplished musician. He taught singing at Center Hill and directed the choir.

Lera Pinnix Bowen 89, a former member of the Executive Board of the Mississippi Baptist Woman's Missionary Union (WMU), died Sept. 10 in Memphis. Funeral services will be held at 2 p.m. Sept. 14 at First Church, Cleveland. Wife of the late Reece Bowen, she taught Sunday School for 53 years and was WMU director at First Church, Cleveland. She is survived by two sons, former U.S. Congressman David R. Bowen of Jackson and Robert P. Bowen of Memphis; daughter Lera Shuttleworth of Severna Park, Md.; brother James L. Pinnix of Jackson; sister Jane Stone of Memphis; and two grandchildren.

Homecomings

First Church, Carthage: Oct. 1; Eddie Hamilton, guest of honor for the day; James Walters, pastor.

Bartahatchie (Monroe): Sept.

17; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner at noon; 1 p.m. singing; The Heartmen, Columbus, guest singers; no night service; speaker will be Mike Adcock, pastor.

Fellowship, Mendenhall: Oct. 15; 10:30 a.m.; noon dinner; singing, 1 p.m.; Pleasant Valley Quartet, Mendenhall, guest singers; Troy B. Land, West Point, guest speaker; Nelson Fortenberry, pastor.

Pleasant Hill, Quitman: Sept. 17; worship, 11 a.m.; dinner, noon; Ralph Smith, Jemison, Ala., guest speaker; James E. Sanders, pastor.

Spring Hill, Waterford: Oct. 8; regular morning services; lunch at 12:15 p.m.; 1 p.m. singing; Young Family, guest singers; Paul Middleton, pastor, speaker.

Riverside, Money (Leflore): Oct. 8; 11 a.m.; pot luck lunch at noon; singing in afternoon; Preston Kelly Jr., pastor.

Rocky Point (Leake): Sept. 24; worship, 10:45 a.m.; noon meal; afternoon singing; W. Levon Moore, interim pastor.

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Missionary News

Alvin and Elizabeth Bailey, missionaries to Guatemala, are in the States (address: 116 Church St., Centerville, GA 31028). He is a native of Milledgeville, Ga. The former Elizabeth Walker, she was born in Jackson, and considers Ripley her hometown.

Kenneth and Lynn Baker, missionaries to the Ivory Coast, are in the States (address: 1535 San Rafael Way, St. Augustine, FL 32084). He was born in Booneville, and considers St. Augustine, Fla., his hometown. The former Lynn Powell of North Carolina, she was born in Morganton and considers Asheville her hometown.

Richard and Martha Beal, missionaries to Venezuela, are in the States (address: 425 Ford, Columbia, MS 39429). A native of Florida, he was born in Pensacola and also lived in Panama City. The former Martha Lyle was born in Laurel and lived in Natchez.

Larry and Alicia Braswell, missionaries to Brazil, have arrived on the field to begin language study (address: Rua Barbosa da Cunha, 138, Jd. Guanabara, 13.073-320 Campinas, SP, Brazil). He was born in Lake Charles, La., and considers Boyle his hometown. The former Alicia Sellers, she was born in Vicksburg and considers Brandon her hometown.

Gerald and Glenda Davis, missionaries to the Philippines, are on the field (address: P.O. Box 7506, DAPO Lock B, 1300 Domestic Rd., Pasay City, Metro Manila, Philippines). He is a native of Carrollton, Ala. The former Glenda Brooks, she was born in Marks, and grew up in Batesville.

Sam and Margaret Drummond, missionaries to Nicaragua, are in the States (address: 442 Cummins St., Jackson, MS 39204). A native of Tennessee, he was born in Memphis and considers Camden his hometown. The former Margaret Whitten, daughter of missionaries, she was born

Correction

In the Sept. 7 issue of **The Baptist Record**, Tim Nicholas should have reported that Edna Ellison was employed by the Mississippi Baptist Convention Board as Women on Mission consultant. That is the new WMU designation for what was formerly Baptist Women and Baptist Young Women. Additionally, she will give leadership to women's ministries in churches.

In the Aug. 31 issue, a "Names in the News" item on Kenny Hunt, deceased pastor, omitted Bethel Church, Winston Association, which he previously served.

in Spain and considers Louisville, Ky., her hometown.

Robert and Marsha Ford, missionaries to Eastern Europe, are in the States (address: Apartment 1005, 9600 Golf Lakes Trail, Dallas, TX 75231). He is a native of St. Augustine, Fla. The former Marsha Waldrep, she was born in New Orleans, La., and considers Holly Spring, La., her hometown.

Jeffery and Nell Ginn, missionaries to Colombia, are in the States (address: c/o Leawood Baptist Church, 3638 Macon Road at Homer, Memphis, TN 38122). A native of Arkansas, he was born in Forrest City and considers West Memphis his hometown. The former Nell Nichols, she was born in Memphis, and considers Byhalia her hometown.

John and Cheryl Hamilton, missionaries to Leeward Island, are in the States (address: 4710 Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, TN 38117). He was born in Columbus, Ga., and considers Decatur, Ala., his hometown. The former Cheryl Rector was born in Biloxi.

Thad and Jan Harper, missionaries to Eritrea, have arrived on the field (address: P.O. Box 1148, Asmara, Eritrea). A native of Mississippi, he was born in Gulfport and considers Clinton his hometown. She is the former Jan Foreman of Baytown, Texas.

Dickie and Dee Nelson, missionaries to Venezuela, are in the States (address: 304 Evergreen Ave., Birmingham, AL 35209). He was born in Newton and considers Slidell, La., his hometown. The former Diana (Dee) Jennings, she was born in Chickamauga, Ga., and also lived in Birmingham, Ala., and New Orleans, La.

Gerry Odom, missionary to Taiwan, is on the field (address: P.O. Box 30-134, Taipei 100, Taiwan ROC). Born in El Dorado, Ark., she also lived in Smackover, Ark.; Washington, Miss.; and Alvin, Texas, while growing up.

Ronnie and Beth Parker, missionaries to Brazil, are on the field (address: Caixa Postal 88, 66017-970 Belem, PA, Brazil). He was born in Hattiesburg and also lived in Long Beach, Gulfport, Biloxi, and Huntsville, Ala., while growing up. The former Beth Colletti, she was born in New Orleans, La., and lived in Hattiesburg and Biloxi, and Mims, Fla., while growing up.

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Jeffrey and Shiela Parker, Baptist representatives to the United Kingdom, are on the field (address: 28 Tremena Gardens, St. Austell, Cornwall PL25 5QH, United Kingdom). He was born in Niagara Falls, N.Y., and also lived in Yazoo City. She is the former Shiela Tucker of Canton.

Hugh and Brenda Provost, Baptist representatives to Middle East, are in the States (address: 3404 Violet, Pine Bluff, AR 71603). He was born in Jonesboro, Ark., and grew up in Belzoni, and in Lepanto, Hughes, Harrisburg, and West Memphis, Ark. She is the former Brenda Bryles of Pine Bluff, Ark.

Jerry and Glenda White, missionaries to South Korea, are on the field (address: 201-5 O Jung Dong, Daeduk-ku, Taejon 306-010, Korea). They are natives of Mississippi. He was born in Marion County, and she, the former Glenda Nix, was born in Montrose and grew up in Bay Springs.

David and Jana Wilkins, Baptist representatives to Middle East and North Africa, have arrived on the field to begin their first term of service (address: P.O. Box 835, 6307 Larnaca, Cyprus). A native of Tennessee, he was born in Memphis and considers Nashville his hometown. The former Jana Smith, she was born in McComb, and considers Nashville her hometown.

Freddie and Karen Womble, missionaries to Paraguay, are in the States (address: 3503 Lemington Rd., Pensacola, FL 32504). He was born in Vicksburg, and considers Monticello his hometown. The former Karen Rodden, she was born in Terceira, Azores, and considers Mobile, Ala., her hometown.

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Minister of Counseling
First Church, Jackson

How can the church accept second marriages? It appears to me the Bible is pretty clear on this subject.

God hates divorce. Divorce is not God's best for anyone, and there are consequences that must be considered — guilt, heartache, effects on children, loss of respect, and more. Marriage is a picture of Christ's love for the church; since Christ died once for the church, marriage is meant to be a singular action. People sin and fail to honor their commitments. Even though God doesn't like sin, he forgives and accepts us when we repent. However, some churches may be watering down their commitment to the institution of marriage by too readily accepting second marriages. In an effort to show love, these churches may not process in depth the individual circumstances and actions that led to the divorce. A period of examination and counseling by the church is in order, rather than passively allowing second marriages to take place. Talk with your pastor and share your concerns with him.

Send your counseling questions to LifeAnswers c/o The Baptist Record, P.O. Box 530, Jackson, MS 39205-0530. Please be brief. Name is not required. Remember: in time of crisis, your pastor can make recommendations on your counseling needs.

Revival Results

Perry Association: Aug. 11-12; youth revival at Indian Springs Church; Rob Boyd, Indianola, evangelist; Wes Switzer, Hattiesburg, music; "many commitments."

Westside, Hazlehurst (Copi-

ah): Aug. 6-11; Van Windom, Roxie, evangelist; Reggie Bridges, Baton Rouge, La., music; one profession of faith; Larry Hart, pastor.



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Uniform Christ's power to save



By Andy Brasher
Acts 3:1—4:12

Like Jesus, Peter and John were devout and orthodox Jews. The actual official separation of the church from Judaism would come later, but for now, this evangelistic sect of Judaism was viewed, presumably to a lesser degree, like the Essenes who had established the Qumran community near the Dead Sea.

Thus, the disciples continued to engage in the Jewish orthodox worship of God by traveling to the temple at 3 p.m. for prayer and afterwards the evening sacrifice. It was here that this new religious movement gained the attention of the religious elite of Jerusalem, and challenged the old religious order by boldly proclaiming that only Jesus Christ and the power of his name could save and make men whole!

Peter's healing a lame man (3:1-11). As was customary during the days of Christ, those who were poor or handicapped often placed themselves outside the gate called Beautiful that led to the Court of Women. These unfortunate souls would throw themselves at others and beg for charity. Those in need were totally at the mercy of those who passed by, as in the case of the crippled beggar. The lame man, forbidden to enter the temple, asked Peter and John for charity as he had done for most of his 40 years (4:22).

Peter responded, "Silver and gold have I none; but such as I have give I thee: In the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth rise up and walk." Immediately the man was healed. The crippled beggar was healed due to his faith in the name of Jesus Christ of Nazareth (3:5-7). The man's belief in what Peter and John offered (the power to walk in the name of Jesus) made him whole. Once erect he shouted and gave the praise to God. How often do we praise him for things he has done for us?

Peter's sermon (3:12-26). First, Peter explained to the crowd that this miracle was not performed by him, but through the name of Jesus, the resurrected One they had denied. Second, Peter admonished the people to repent or turn from their old way of thinking. Also, he overlooked their ignorance and hastened to inform them that a free pardon could be theirs by the vicarious death of Jesus. The people had to repent and believe on this very same Jesus they had executed. Third, Peter argued that the appearance of Christ was part of God's plan as foretold by the Old Testament prophets.

Peter and John's arrest (4:1-4). The sagan or captain of the temple, the priestly order, and the ruling Sadducees had the duo incarcerated. The arrest was presumably due to unruly crowd excitement and to their claim for the physical resurrection of Christ. The Sadducees did not believe in a resurrection and were no doubt annoyed by such ludicrous speculations. Nevertheless, the church increased to 5,000 souls due to their preaching and the intrigue.

Peter and John before the Council and the testimony of Christ's saving power (4:5-12). Peter and John were summoned before the Sanhedrin and asked, "By what power, or by what name, have ye done this." Peter answered them by saying, "Jesus Christ of Nazareth, whom ye crucified, whom God raised from the dead, even by him doth this man stand before you whole." He continued by affirming, "Neither is there salvation in any other: for there is none other name under heaven given among men whereby we must be saved."

It is a sad commentary that the members of the Sanhedrin rejected Peter's sermon of salvation. We know that the Council perceived themselves to be erudite men of greater learning than the followers of Christ (4:13). Possibly, these religious men had conjectured that only the destitute, uneducated, and ignorant would align themselves with such a movement that believed in a resurrected carpenter from Nazareth who claimed to be the Son of God. Whatever their reasons, they were wrong. Jesus Christ is the resurrected Lord and the only name by which a person can be saved!

Brasher is pastor of Como Church, Como.

Bible Book Visions of kingdoms



By Larry McDonald
Daniel 7, 8

The first six chapters of Daniel are written as chronological history with Daniel serving under three kings: Nebuchadnezzar, Belshazzar, and Darius. Chapters 7-12 are visions Daniel had earlier in his life. These chapters are considered apocalyptic literature. The word "apocalyptic" is derived from a Greek word meaning "revelation, disclosure, uncover, or reveal." Leon Morris says "that literature bearing this name may thus be expected to be largely taken up with revealing what has been hidden."

Therefore, a significant part of apocalyptic literature is an unveiling of future events. Some, who deny the possibility of miracles, would reject prophetic writing about future events. They give a late dating of the writing of Daniel, therefore making the writer look back upon events instead of looking forward.

I fully reject this anti-supernatural bias. I believe God has, still can, and does perform miracles. I find no difficulty in seeing these chapters as God revealing to Daniel future events. But, I hasten to say, it does not mean we have an easy time understanding all the details involved in Daniel's visions.

Daniel's vision in Chapter 7 was of four beasts representing four kingdoms that would rise up (7:17). The first beast was a lion which had the wings of an eagle (7:4). This is commonly identified as symbolizing Babylon (cf. 2:38). Nebuchadnezzar was symbolized as a lion and an eagle elsewhere by the biblical writers (Jer. 4:7; 49:19-22; Ez. 17:3). Also, statues of winged lions have been found in ruins of Babylon.

The second beast was a bear with ribs in its mouth (7:5). This is commonly identified as symbolizing the Medo-Persian empire which was the next great world empire after Babylon. The Medo-Persian empire was noted for its great size and fierceness in battle. In Daniel's vision in Chapter 8, the ram is also identified with the Medo-Persian empire (8:20).

The third beast was a leopard with four heads along with four wings on its back (7:6). This is commonly identified as symbolizing the empire of Greece. Greece, like the leopard, carried out its conquests with lightning speed, and it had an insatiable lust for territory. Alexander the Great invaded Asia Minor and within 10 years had conquered the entire Medo-Persian Empire to the borders of India. In Daniel's vision in Chapter 8, the goat is also identified with the Greek empire (8:21).

The fourth beast was only identified as terrifying, frightening, and powerful. It had large iron teeth and 10 horns (7:7). This is commonly identified as symbolizing the Roman Empire. The Roman Empire was aptly portrayed by this beast. Rome possessed the power and longevity to crush nations. Its power was virtually irresistible and the extent of its influence surpassed the other three kingdoms.

Below is a comparison of Daniel visions found in Chapters 2, 7, and 8:

A Comparison Of Daniel 2; 7; and 8

Daniel 2	Daniel 7	Daniel 8	
Metals	Animals	Animals	Nations
Gold	Lion	—	Babylon
Silver	Bear	Ram	Medo-Persia
Bronze	Leopard	Goat	Greece
Iron and Clay	Beast	—	Rome

James Montgomery Boice identifies three important ideas conveyed by the visions. First, God rules in history. Kings and kingdoms may come and go, but God stays the same. He is the one in charge.

Second, the kingdom of Jesus Christ will triumph over the kingdoms of this world and will endure forever. Daniel introduces the personal rule of God's Anointed, described as being "like a son of man."

Third, the saints of the Most High will reign with Jesus. There will be a persecution of the saints (7:25). But the persecuting king will be destroyed and the "sovereignty, power, and greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven will be handed over to the saints, the people of the Most High" (7:27).

McDonald is pastor of Castlewoods Church, Brandon.

Life and Work Salvation's privileges



By Bob Rogers
Romans 5

A major credit card company advertises its usefulness by saying, "Membership has its privileges." The Christian could reword that slogan a little and say, "Salvation has its privileges." What advantage is there to being a believer in Jesus Christ? That is the question answered in this week's lesson.

We receive a relationship with God (vv. 1-2, 9-11). Salvation through faith in Jesus Christ is not so much a matter of "getting religion" as it is getting a relationship with God. Romans 5 states this truth in several words which are rich with meaning:

Justified (v. 1). Paul begins verse 1 by saying, "Therefore, since we have been justified through faith...." What does it mean to be justified? It means "just-as-if-I'd" never sinned!

Peace (v. 1). The rest of verse 1 says, "... We have peace with God through our Lord Jesus Christ."

Some translations use the subjunctive mood: "... Let us have peace...." Most translations, however, including the King James Version and the New International Version, agree that the best reading is the indicative mood, "... We have peace...."

Peace is something we are given because of our faith, not something we can earn.

Access (v. 2). "We have gained access by faith," Paul says. If you have a personal computer with a modem, you can "gain access" to the Internet and talk to people all over the country through your computer. The Christian has gained a far greater access than that, for he has direct access to God himself. He does not have to go through a priest or anybody else; because of salvation, the Christian and God are on-line!

Position of grace (v. 2). One of the benefits of this access is that we stand in God's grace. "We have gained access by faith into this grace in which we now stand." Have you ever been "out of favor" with your boss or your family? What a wonderful feeling it is to enjoy their favor again. By grace and because of faith in Christ, we are in God's favor.

Reconciled (v. 9-11). When we skip to verses 9-11, we see the other benefit of salvation related to being in a relationship with God: being reconciled. Most lost people don't think of themselves as being enemies of God, but verse 10 says they are. The cross of Christ becomes the "bridge over troubled water" to heal that relationship which is broken because of our sin.

We receive hope in the midst of suffering (vv. 3-5). Another benefit of salvation is that we received hope in the midst of our suffering. Verses 3-5 show how a series of interlocking characteristics make a strong chain to give this hope. The first link is suffering, which produces perseverance, which produces character, which produces hope. "And hope does not disappoint us" (v. 5).

Someone asked D.E. King, an African-American pastor from Chicago, why black Christians are always joyful in their worship, even if things aren't going well. King replied, "We rejoice in what we are going to have."

We receive sacrificial love (vv. 6-8). Romans 5:8 is one of the most important verses in the Bible on the subject of salvation: "But God demonstrates his own love for us in this: While we were still sinners, Christ died for us."

We know love is real when it is displayed in action. For example, a mother does not lie in bed when her baby is crying and say, "I love you." Real love gets her up out of bed to tend to her child. Likewise, God showed he loved us by sending his son Jesus Christ to the cross.

Notice that God is the One who took the first step. He did not say, "If you stop sinning, I will love you." No, he loved us despite our sin, so by receiving that love we could win the victory over our sin.

Learning activity: Write on the board, "Membership has its privileges." Make a list of benefits from a credit card or travel club and list them in one column. Then list the benefits the world claims for a life without Christ. In the third column, go through the scripture and list the benefits of salvation. How do they compare?

Rogers is pastor of First Church, Poplarville.

capsules

RELIGION GUIDELINES SENT TO SCHOOLS; EFFECT DEBATED: WASHINGTON (BP) — The U.S. Department of Education has sent guidelines on religious expression to the country's public school superintendents, and Secretary Richard Riley hopes the action "will end some of the confusion" about the sometimes volatile issue at the local level. The problems will not be solved without the passage of a constitutional amendment protecting religious expression, a Southern Baptist church-state specialist said in response. According to the guidelines, the following religious expressions are among those allowed in schools: prayer by individuals and groups as long as it is not disruptive; prayers over lunch; student-initiated religious discussions; witnessing that does not constitute "harassment;" individual reading of the Bible or other religious books; teaching about religion; student expression of religious beliefs in homework and class presentations; distribution of religious literature; wearing clothing with religious messages if clothing with other messages is allowed; and equal treatment of student religious clubs. The guidelines are "not intended to change anything," Riley said in an Aug. 30 briefing at the Department of Education. "They also won't solve all the problems. We are very quick to say that."

TEXAS CONSERVATIVES LIST NOMINEES, QUESTION OTHER NOMINEE'S CBF TIES: GRAND PRAIRIE, Texas (BP) — Southern Baptists of Texas, an organization of conservatives in the state, has announced a slate of nominees for General Convention of Texas officers to be elected at the BGCT annual meeting Nov. 13-14 in San Antonio. Gary Miller, pastor of Sagamore Hill Church, Fort Worth, will be the group's nominee for BGCT president, according to an announcement Aug. 30 by John Yeats, editor of the group's newsletter, *Plumbline*. Miller will face at least one other candidate, Charles Wade, pastor of First Church, Arlington, who will be nominated by Russell H. Dilday Jr., former president of Southwestern Seminary in Fort Worth, now acting dean of Baylor University's Truett Seminary.

BIBLE TRANSLATION REACHES NAVAJOS IN THE "LANGUAGE OF THEIR HEART": (NAPS) — Revitalized modern translations are enabling a growing Christian community of Navajos to read the Bible in the "language of their heart." In 1894, a group of Christians began to translate the Bible into the Navajo language. It took more than 90 years before the whole Bible was finished and today an American Bible Society (ABS) team is working on a contemporary translation to bring the Bible to new generations of Navajo. As more Navajo are learning to read and write their native language, they need a Bible that speaks the way they speak today and relates to their unique heritage. *Luke doo Acts or Luke and Acts in Navajo*, the most recent translation in modern Navajo, is now available. Under Bible Society guidance the translators, most of whom are Navajo, are developing contemporary language versions directly from the original Greek and Hebrew manuscripts. For more information on the ABS or to order a video about the Navajo translation, "In the Language of the Heart," write the American Bible Society, News Bureau, 1865 Broadway, New York, NY 10023.

NCAA DECISION TO PENALIZE PRAYER LEAVES SOME CHRISTIANS UP IN ARMS: SHAWNEE MISSION, Kan. (ABP) — Should football players be penalized for kneeling to pray after scoring a touchdown? The NCAA says "yes." But some Christian athletes say "no way!" and will take the NCAA to court. The National Collegiate Athletic Association, which governs college athletics, is cracking down on what it calls excessive celebration in football — taunting, showboating, dancing, spiking the football, and any other "delayed, excessive, or prolonged act by which a player attempts to focus attention upon himself." But prayer? Yes, according to a videotape distributed by the NCAA, which is based in Shawnee Mission, Kan., to explain the crackdown. The video depicted several behaviors that will be penalized. One of those examples was a player kneeling and "obviously praying," said Gregg Summers, NCAA assistant director of publications and staff liaison to the committee. It's the kneeling — not the praying — that will draw a penalty flag, Summers said.

FLORIDA BOARD VOTES TO SEVER STETSON TIES: JACKSONVILLE, Fla. (ABP) — The Florida Convention is expected to sever all ties with Stetson University over the school's new policy permitting limited drinking on campus. The convention's State Board of Missions approved a recommendation Sept. 8 to end the fraternal relationship Florida Baptists have had with Stetson for most of the school's 112 years. The proposal now goes to the annual Florida Convention Nov. 13-15 for approval. State convention leaders, echoing the feelings of many conservative Florida Baptists, have condemned the new drinking policy, which permits students of legal drinking age to consume alcoholic beverages in most residence halls and at approved social gatherings. Ken Whitten, state convention president and pastor of Idlewild Church in Tampa, told state board members the decision was unavoidable. "They [Stetson] have defined who they are. We have defined who we are. There is no other alternative but to sever the fraternal relationship. It breaks my heart, [but] we cannot tell Stetson who they are to be, just like they cannot tell us who we are." John Sullivan, executive director of the convention and an outspoken critic of the alcohol policy, supported the recommendation.



PUTTING FEET TO FAITH — While messengers to the 1995 Southern Baptist Convention annual meeting were formulating a racial reconciliation resolution inside the Georgia Dome this summer, Lynn Shirley (far left) and Judith Vise (far right), both of Whitesburg Church in Huntsville, Ala., witnessed outside. Both were among

volunteers taking religious opinion surveys as part of the evangelism blitz. Crossover Atlanta. Neighborhood surveys yielded 1,366 opportunities for volunteers to present the gospel, and 111 professions of faith. Over 700 professions of faith were recorded as a result of the entire Crossover effort. (BP photo by Mark Sandlin)

African-American Baptists critical of SBC racism stand

DALLAS (ABP) — The Southern Baptist Convention's recent apology for condoning racism in its history came too late, the president of a mostly black Baptist group said Sept. 4.

"There's been a whole lot of time since slavery for good, Christian people to apologize," E. Edward Jones, president of the 4.5 million-member National Baptist Convention of America told Associated Press.

In comments the day before the start of the National Baptist Convention of America's annual meeting in Dallas, Jones questioned the "sincerity" and "validity" of the SBC's apology, which he said was made only in hopes of attracting members from the growing black middle class.

The SBC resolution, which for the first time acknowledged slavery's role in the founding of the predominantly white, 15 million-member convention, was expected to be a topic of discussion at the National Baptist meeting in Dallas, scheduled Sept. 5-8.

Willie Range of Dallas told the *Fort Worth Star-Telegram* that he expected National Baptists to accept the SBC apology. However, Range added, "I think there is some concern about sheep-stealing."

"I think they also are concerned

about the hidden Republican agendas in the Southern Baptist Convention. Many of the white Baptists are archconservatives (politically)," he said.

At another major meeting this week, the annual convention of the 7.5 million-member National Baptist Convention USA in Birmingham, Ala., the SBC resolution is not on the agenda but is likely to come up in speeches, said Michael Bell, a Fort Worth pastor.

"The Baptist resolution may have been meant for good, but many are interpreting it as a means of seducing black congregations and trying to sucker African-American churches into joining the Southern Baptist Convention," Bell said.

The SBC resolution was a hot topic at a National Baptist Convention U.S.A. Congress of Christian Education held in San Diego in June.

"Speaker after speaker condemned the Southern Baptist resolution," said Bell, who spoke at the San Diego meeting. Critics called it an effort by Southern Baptists to barge in on the African-American community, he said.

While most African-American congregations belong to predominantly black conventions, Southern Baptists are making rapid

inroads into the black community. African-American churches make up about 1,900 of the SBC's 37,000 congregations.

Jones told the *Star-Telegram* he believes Southern Baptists are "going more into the African-American community because we have the largest and fastest growing middle class among any ethnicity today."

In a recent statement to churches, Jones warned: "Southern Baptists with their belated apology have not had such a heart and mind to so love us.... We must not be swept away by hidden agendas."

Gary Frost, the SBC's only black officer, said he understood concerns in the black community, but hoped African-American Baptist leaders would give Southern Baptists time to show they were sincere about their apology.

"We hope that over a period of time, we are able to express the genuineness of the apology beyond words into deeds," Frost told Associated Press. "I would pray they would allow time for the sincerity of the apology to be manifested."

Bibliocipher

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QHF BGERZ EY RZO YNWYRGQXO HB RZEQDY
ZHMOS BHJ, RZO OLESOQXO HB RZEQDY QHR
YOOQ.

ZOWJOFY OVOLOQ: HQO

This week's clue: O equals E.

Have fun with cryptography and exercise your Bible knowledge. A King James Version Bible verse has been encoded by letter substitution. The same letter is substituted throughout the puzzle. Solve by trial and error. Answer to last week's puzzle: Revelation One: Eight.

Baptist Record

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